



URBAN DISTRICT OF STREET

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(including the Report of the Public Health Inspector)

FOR THE YEAR

1972

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Deryck E. Clare, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., M.F.C.M., M.R.S.H.

LOCUM DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

J. Pinching, B.M., B.Ch., M.R.C.P.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR & SURVEYOR

N.E. Whitby, A.I.A.S., M.I.P.H.E., M.R.S.H.

Committee dealing with Public Health Matters

Health and Housing Committee

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URBAN DISTRICT OF STREET

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31st DECEMBER, 1972

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Area Health Office,
37 Chamberlain Street,
WELLS.
BA5 2PQ

7th September, 1973

To the Chairman and Members of the Street Urban District Council

Mr,Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health of the District for 1972, compiled in accordance with Department of Health and Social Security Circular 1/73.

It will be seen that the vital statistics present a reasonably rosy picture with a raised birth rate, low illegitimate live birth rate and low general death and infant mortality rates. There was no maternal mortality and notifiable diseases were of a low order.

The citizens of Street continued to benefit from the proximity of the Divisional Office of the Social Services Department in the High Street, and from the excellent facilities of the Health Centre in Leigh Road, the medical staff of which was augmented by an additional doctor during 1972.

The environmental health side is again admirably described by the Surveyor/Public Health Inspector in his Report and includes for the first time a mention of the time given by your public health staff to the practical training of student nurses from the Mendip Hospital and County Health Visitor trainees.

My thanks are due once again to the Public Health Inspector and his staff, the Clerk, other Officers of the Council and Members, and professional colleagues in the town for their continued co-operation.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient servant,

D. E. CLARE

Medical Officer of Health

GENERAL STATISTICS, 1972

Area of Urban District (in acres).....	3,069
Population (mid-year 1972).....	8,170
Number of Inhabited Houses (as at 31/12/72).....	2,823
Rateable Value..... (as at 1/4/72).....	£358,456
Product of a Penny Rate... (as at 31/3/72).....	£3,500

NOTES ON VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1972

(The figures in general are too small for much importance to be attached to them but certain broad statements can be made).

Population

The mid-year population was estimated by the General Register Office to be the same as for 1971, namely, 8,170.

Births

Live Births - exceeded deaths by 51, but totalled 4 less than in the previous year. The Corrected Birth Rate remained significantly above County and National figures.

Illegitimate Live Births - again totalled 2 and the percentage rate remained less than a third of the County rate and less than a quarter of the National average.

Still Births - fell to 2, but the stillbirth rate remained well above the rates for Somerset and England and Wales.

Deaths

All Ages - fell by 18 compared with the total for 1971, with the result that the Corrected Death Rate was better than the equivalent County and National figures.

Infant Deaths - fell to 1 only, giving Infant Mortality and Perinatal Mortality rates lower than County and National rates. There was no neonatal or early neonatal mortality.

Maternal Mortality - again there was none.

Causes of Mortality

Heart, Cerebrovascular and Other Diseases of the Circulatory System - caused the largest number of deaths in the town, totalling 47, but 6 less than in 1971. Of these, heart diseases caused 26 deaths and cerebrovascular diseases 18.

Cancers - occupied second place as a cause of mortality, but deaths fell by 8, to a total of 17, compared with the previous year. As regards site, lung cancer led with 5 deaths (the same figure for 3 years running, and all in males), whilst cancer of the gastro-intestinal tract followed with 3 deaths.

Respiratory Diseases - accounted for 8 deaths, all over the age of 55 years, and of these bronchitis and emphysema caused 5 deaths, mainly in males, and pneumonia 2 deaths.

Accidents - again caused 2 deaths, and one of these involved a motor vehicle.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Apart from the usual number of measles there is little on which to report. The one case of respiratory tuberculosis occurred in a butcher working in a multiple food store but radiological examination of contacts revealed no spread to his workmates.

ANNUAL RETURN OF FOOD POISONING AND HUMAN SALMONELLA INFECTIONS

No reports were received of cases of food poisoning or salmonella infections.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 (SEC.47) & AMENDMENT ACT, 1951

No cases occurred requiring official action under the above Acts, but border-line cases were visited from time to time.

MAIN VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1972

(With comparative figures for Somerset & England & Wales where available)

<u>BIRTHS</u>						<u>Somerset</u>	<u>England & Wales</u> (Provisional)
<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Recorded</u>	<u>Corrected</u>		
Legitimate	66	65	131				
Illegitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>				
Totals:	<u>67</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>133</u>			8,641	725,405
Rate per 1,000 population				16.3	16.1	15.3	14.8
(Area Births Comparability Factor .99)						(Corrected)	
Ratio of local corrected rate to national rate					1.09		
<u>ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS</u>							
(per cent of total live births)				2.0		6.4	9.0
<u>STILL BIRTHS</u>							
Legitimate	1	1	2				7,846
Illegitimate	-	-	-				<u>948</u>
Totals:	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>			101	<u>8,794</u>
Rate per 1,000 live & still births				15.0		12.0	12.0
<u>TOTAL LIVE & STILL BIRTHS</u>							
	68	67	135			8,742	734,199
<u>DEATHS</u>							
<u>TOTAL DEATHS</u> (all ages)	41	41	82			7,803	591,907
Rate per 1,000 population				10.0	10.6	10.8	12.1
(Area Deaths Comparability Factor 1.06)						(Corrected)	
Ratio of local corrected rate to national rate					.88		
<u>INFANT DEATHS</u> (under 1 year)							
Legitimate	-	1	1				11,177
Illegitimate	-	-	-				<u>1,317</u>
Totals:	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>			116	<u>12,494</u>
<u>(Under 4 weeks)</u>							
Legitimate	-	-	-				7,503
Illegitimate	-	-	-				<u>870</u>
Totals:	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>			83	<u>8,373</u>
<u>(Under 1 week)</u>							
Legitimate	-	-	-				6,365
Illegitimate	-	-	-				<u>777</u>
Totals:	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>			63	<u>7,142</u>
<u>INFANT MORTALITY RATES</u>							
Total Infant Deaths per 1,000							
Total Live births				8.0		13.0	17.0
Legitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000							
Legitimate live births				8.0		14.0	17.0
Illegitimate Infant Deaths per							
1,000 illegitimate live births				NIL		11.0	21.0

	Recorded	Corrected	<u>Somerset</u>	<u>England & Wales</u> (Provisional)
<u>NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATES</u>				
(Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	Nil		10.0	12.0
<u>EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE</u>				
(Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	Nil		7.0	10.0
<u>PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE</u>				
(Still births & deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 live & still births)	15.0		21.0	22.0
<u>MATERNAL MORTALITY (including abortion)</u>				
Number of deaths	Nil		1	
Rate per 1,000 total live & still births	Nil		.11	

MASS RADIOGRAPHY SERVICE

The Mass Radiography Service continued their fortnightly visits to the North Side Car Park for the benefit of General Practitioner referrals. The number of these referrals given in the figures below is 212.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Numbers examined	421	442	863
Abnormalities detected	20	7	27

DETAILS OF ABNORMALITIES DETECTED

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Healed Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3	2	5
Bronchial Carcinoma	2	-	2
Acquired Cardiac Lesion	3	-	3
Bronchiectasis	1	-	1
Bacterial and Virus Infections of the Lungs	-	1	1
Pleural Effusion	1	-	1
Bronchitis and Emphysema	4	1	5
Abnormality of the Diaphragm	-	1	1
Dorsal Scoliosis	3	-	3
Pulmonary Fibrosis	2	-	2
Pleural Thickening	1	2	3

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIOD OF LIFE DURING 1972
(As given by the Registrar General)

CAUSE OF DEATH	Sex	Total all Ages.	Under 4 wks.	4 wks and under 1 year	Age in Years									
					1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75 & upwards	
Tuberculosis of	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	
Respiratory System	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Malignant Neoplasm,	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
Stomach	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Malignant Neoplasm,	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
Intestine	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Malignant Neoplasm,	M	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	
Lung, Bronchus	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Malignant Neoplasm,	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Breast	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
Malignant Neo:Uterus	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	
Malignant Neo:Prostate	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Leukaemia	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Other Malignant	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	
Neoplasms	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	
Other Diseases of	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Nervous System	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Chronic Rheumatic	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Heart Disease	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Hypertensive Disease	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Ischaemic Heart Dis:	M	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	1	4	
	F	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	
Other Forms of	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	
Heart Disease	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	
Cerebrovascular Dis:	M	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	3	
	F	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	9	
Other Diseases of	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Circulatory Sys:	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	
Pneumonia	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Bronchitis &	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	
Emphysema	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	
Other Diseases of	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Respiratory System	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Other Diseases,	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Genito-Urinary Sys:	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Diseases of Musculo-	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Skeletal System	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	
Symptoms & Ill-	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Defined Conditions	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Motor Vehicle Accid.	F	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	
All other accidents	F	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
All other External	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	
Causes	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total all Causes	M	41	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	11	9	17	
	F	41	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	3	6	29	

CERTAIN VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE FIVE-YEAR PERIOD 1968 - 1972
WITH COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR SOMERSET & ENGLAND & WALES

	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
<u>1. Corrected Birth Rate</u>					
Street U.D.	17.3	18.0	15.5	17.6	16.1
Somerset	16.9	16.8	15.1	16.5	15.3
England & Wales	16.9	16.3	16.0	16.0	14.8
<u>2. Corrected Death Rate</u>					
Street U.D.	10.2	10.9	10.7	14.5	10.6
Somerset	10.9	10.8	10.6	10.5	10.8
England & Wales	11.9	11.9	11.7	11.6	12.1
<u>3. Infant Mortality Rate</u>					
Street U.D.	22.6	22.0	16.0	22.0	8.0
Somerset	15.6	16.0	17.0	15.0	13.0
England & Wales	18.0	18.0	18.0	18.0	17.0

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES
(5 year period 1968 - 1972)

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified</u>				
	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1972</u>
Acute Encephalitis	-	-	-	1	-
Acute Meningitis	-	-	1	-	-
Dysentery	-	4	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	2	-	-	-
Infective Jaundice	-	4	2	4	1
Measles	162	6	47	15	21
Scarlet Fever	-	-	1	1	-
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	-	2	-	1	1
Whooping Cough	1	-	-	-	-
Totals:	163	18	51	22	23

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT
1972

WATER SUPPLY

The supply to the Street Urban District proved satisfactory during the year under report.

The quality of the water is also satisfactory. Regular samples were taken during the year for bacteriological and chemical analyses, and the results were as follows:-

23 samples	...	bacteriological	...	satisfactory
1 sample	...	-do-	...	unsatisfactory
5 samples	...	chemical	...	satisfactory

Natural Fluoride content of the water supplies:-

Millyard supply	...	0.06 p.p.m. as F
Millhead "	...	0.10 -do-
Honeyhurst "	...	0.12 -do-
Cheddar "	...	0.12 -do-

SEWERAGE & SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The survey of sewers has been completed and the contract for repair to West End sewer and re-laying of the sewer from West End to Farm Road has been let and work is in hand.

The Sewage Works continues to produce an effluent which is well within the Royal Commission Standard and mostly within the standard laid down by the River Authority. In spite of this the Authority still places an embargo on development within the Urban area, notwithstanding the Council's instruction to dispense with the existing works and to pump sewage to Glastonbury disposal works, and have instructed Consultants to prepare schemes for pumping and extending Glastonbury sewage disposal works. It will be interesting to see what happens when the River Authority takes over disposal in 1974.

SWIMMING POOLS

There are two Swimming Pools in the area - Greenbank, a privately owned pool but open to the public, and Millfield School pool. The Authority is now constructing a new indoor swimming pool within the Strode complex.

17 samples were taken during the year and all were satisfactory.

FOOD HYGIENE

Milk

There are 18 registered distributors in the area.

During the year 75 samples of pasteurised milk were taken of which 3 were unsatisfactory.

The one bottling and pasteurising plant in the district is maintained at a very high standard.

PREMISES WHERE FOOD IS PREPARED

No. registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955:-

Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	34 (Retail only)
Manufactured Meat Products	...	...	...	...	5
Poultry Processing	...	...	...	...	Nil

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATION, 1960

The following Food Premises are subject to the above Regulations:-

<u>Shops</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>No.fitted to comply with Reg.16, i.e. wash-hand basins</u>	<u>No.to which Reg.19 applies i.e.facilities for washing food and equipment</u>	<u>No. complying with Reg.19</u>
Butcher	9	9	9	9
Bakers and Confectioners	4	4	4	4
Cafes	10	10	10	10
Dairies	3	3	3	3
Fish & Chip	3	3	3	3
Groceries	22	22	22	22
Sweet	6	6	6	6
	57	57	57	57

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There is only one licenced slaughterhouse which is temporarily closed.

CONDEMNED FOOD

1847 lbs. of food was condemned within the area during the year. A large amount of this was due to electrical or mechanical failure in refrigerators and deep frozen food cabinets.

HOUSING

During the year 6 old person's flats were completed and 70 private enterprise houses. Street is a well sought after area and if the River Authority would accept in good faith that sewage will be treated at Glastonbury works, there would be a marked increase in house building.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

During the year 25 Grants were approved, 21 of which were Discretionary and 4 Standard. This is the same total as last year and although the standard of housing is high in this area, one would have hoped for a greater number of grants applied for.

The Council's programme of improving pre-war houses is proceeding well and the tenants of the improved houses are well satisfied. As in the case of new houses, if we could only get stability instead of inflation, more could be done. At present one is looking always for ways to keep prices within bounds and this does not lead to satisfaction or to as high a standard as one would like to see.

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

85 premises are registered with the Council and during the year routine inspections were made. No case was found which warranted action.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

No action was found necessary but advice was given to developers in several cases.

AGRICULTURAL (SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE PROVISIONS) ACT, 1956

No action was found necessary under this Act.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937-1961

1 - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

<u>Premises</u>	<u>No. on Reg.</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>No. of written notices</u>	<u>Occupiers prosecuted</u>
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(i) Factories in which Section 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	4	4	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	25	29	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	-	-	-	-
Total:	29	33	-	-

2 - Cases in which DEFECTS were found (If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases")

<u>Particulars</u>	<u>Number of cases in which defects were found</u>				<u>No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted</u>
	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	<u>Referred To HM Insp.</u>	<u>By HM Insp.</u>	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temp. (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Vent. (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):-					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-

Other offences against the Act
(not incl. offences relating to Outwork) - Nil

No. of Outworkers required by Section 133(1)(c) ... Workers - 208

CARAVAN & CAMPING SITES

Nil return.

RATS & MICE

37 properties were treated for rats and mice in addition to regular treatment of the dumps, sewage works and sewers.

CEMETERY

50 burials took place during the year and there is adequate land for the foreseeable future.

CIVIC AMENITIES ACT

Action was taken to remove several derelict cars and deposited rubbish in hedge-rows and ditches.

TRAINING

During the year practical training was given again to Student Nurses and Health Visitors in public health work.

In conclusion, I would like to express my appreciation to the Council and staff for their support and encouragement during the year.

There is much speculation as to what will happen on re-organisation, and with the slow speed with which details are being prepared there is much apprehension amongst the staff.

N.E.W.

